

Did you find nectar in the flowers?

When were the flowers observed?

Have you observed birds on the Banksia with spikes on the soil?

Answers could be sent to *W.A. Naturalist*. I would be grateful, if the answer could be accompanied by a twig and some spikes from the Banksias concerned.

The answers will be used for my final publication.

Note: The description of the honey-possum is preliminary, and I am carrying on further investigations.

#### REFERENCE

MORCOMBE, M. K. 1968. *Australia's Western Wildflowers*. Melbourne.

### FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**The Oriental Cuckoo at Dampier.**—The known distribution of the Oriental Cuckoo, *Cuculus saturatus*, in Western Australia has been documented by Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1976). The only record so far known south of the Kimberley Division of this non-breeding migrant from Asia was seen in the Pilbara on March 19, 1973.

On the morning of November 28, 1977, an injured Oriental Cuckoo was found in the garden of a Dampier home. The bird was brought to me; however I could find no superficial injuries. Unfortunately the Cuckoo died later that day. Photographs of the dead bird were taken to enable positive identification to be made.

—K. D. PERRY, Dampier.

**Co-operative breeding by Red-winged Wrens (*Malurus elegans*).**—Four years ago when one of us reviewed the incidence of co-operative breeding in Australian birds (Rowley, *Proc. 16th Int. Ornith. Congr.*) eight species of *Malurus* had been recorded breeding co-operatively (loc. cit., p. 661).

In September, 1977 Pam Chapman found a nest of *Malurus elegans* in Jarrah forest to the south of Mundaring. On 24 September one of us photographed three individuals (2♂♂, 1♀) attending the nest which by now contained nestlings. On 25 September the two males were mist-netted, colour-banded and watched returning to the nest. This is the first record of co-operative breeding by *Malurus elegans*.

—GRAEME CHAPMAN and IAN ROWLEY, CSIRO, Division of Wildlife Research, Helena Valley, W.A.

**Adult White-tailed Tropic-bird, *Phaethon lepturus*, at Torbay.**—Around mid-day on 14 December 1977 we saw a White-tailed Tropic-bird at close quarters at Torbay on the south coast of Western Australia.

The bird flew over us at a height of about 15 metres, moving east from the high ground and out into the bay. The differences from the Red-tailed Tropic-bird, *P. rubricauda*, were immediately noticed. The central tail feathers were white and much broader, the underwing pattern showed a large dark or black area under the primaries contrasting with the all-white underwing of the Red-tailed Tropic-bird. The bill was light-coloured and the reflection from the sand made it appear horn-coloured. The exposed parts of the feet were very dark.

We were both impressed by its smaller size and more gracile form than the Red-tailed Tropic-bird. Crested Terns nearby provided a frame-of-reference.

We are both familiar with the Red-tailed Tropic-bird in the wild and in captivity.

—C. A. NICHOLLS and T. SPENCE.